

571—17.16(461A) Nonuse. Failure by an operator to substantially exercise the rights granted in a lease issued under this chapter within a period of two years from the issuance of the lease shall render the lease null and void unless extended by the department. Failure by an operator to substantially exercise the rights granted in a lease issued under this chapter for any period of two consecutive years shall create a rebuttable presumption that the operator intends to abandon and forfeit the lease and shall be cause for a review of the lease by the department. The operator may request a contested case proceeding in accordance with Iowa Code chapter 17A and 571—Chapter 7.